

MINUTES
of the
SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORKSHOP MEETING

DATE: March 2, 2004

PLACE: 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair John Britton, Directors David Davis, Brian Fahnestock, Lee Moldaver, Olivia Rodriguez and Interim General Manager Sherrie Fisher

OTHERS PRESENT: Browning Allen (City of Santa Barbara), Bob Westwick (Easy Lift), Ralph Fertig (Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition), Jerry Estrada, Lynnette Coverly, David Damiano, Paul Tumbleson, Steve Hahn, Gary Johns, Steve Maas, and Sally Bowman (MTD).

1. Call to Order

Chair John Britton called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors

Chair Britton noted that all Board members were present.

3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda

General Manager Sherrie Fisher reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters and on the MTD Website last week and mailed to media of general circulation.

4. Approval of Prior Minutes

Director David Davis moved to waive the reading of, and approve the minutes of February 17, 2004. Director Olivia Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Cash Report

The Cash Report will be presented at the next Board Meeting.

5.5 Public Comment (Chair Britton inserted a public comment period to accommodate attendees.)

Steve Musick spoke on the issue of MTD selling the Calle Real Property for residential housing instead of farmland; an additional concern of his in addition to his previous concerns.

Director David Davis responded that MTD has been working on Mr. Musick's previous concerns and a letter should go out shortly. Director Davis also noted that MTD has not concluded negotiations with the County Housing Authority and therefore it is premature to address these issues at present.

Bob Westwick of Easy Lift advised the Board of an increase in workers compensation insurance of \$100,000 for next year with no solutions to cover it. In response, Director Moldaver suggested that we work with our State Legislature representatives to solve this difficult issue.

Ralph Fertig, President of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition addressed the Board on the issue of bicyclists not being able to board the bus if the bike rack is full. Mr. Fertig presented information on a 3-bike rack that he said was recently available and that takes the same space as the current two-bike rack and recommends them for the new MTD buses. Mr. Fertig also wanted to address the issue of putting a bicycle inside the bus at the discretion of the bus driver in the handicap area, especially if it's on the last run of the night. Chair Britton asked the staff to look into the 3-bike rack recommended and report back to the Board.

6. Presentation: Regional Impacts of Growth

Pat Saley and Mike Brown of the Santa Barbara Region Economic Community Project (originally developed to promote economic development and diversity) gave a presentation on Regional Growth Impacts that affect transportation as a regional function.

Chair Britton thanked Pat Saley and Mike Brown for their presentation and opened it up to discussion.

Director Davis noted that higher income population is increasing and lower income population is decreasing, which means less transit dependent service in the city and more intra-city bus service for commuting.

7. Budget/Workshop

General Manager Sherrie Fisher introduced Controller Jerry Estrada who led the workshop discussions. Then Mr. Estrada turned the meeting over to Director Brian Fahnestock who gave a presentation on financing for MTD over a 5-year period.

Director Fahnestock noted the number one issue is the increased need to depend on government subsidies for operations and the number two issue is our funding through the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) that wants increased service to the Santa Ynez Valley when support for existing service is difficult. Mr. Estrada added that since we need to apply government funds to operations, it is very difficult to set aside funds for capital expenditures. Director Moldaver asked if we get funds from Measure D. The Controller responded that MTD does not get funds directly from Measure D, but does get subsidies from local agencies indirectly who buy down fares. In conclusion, the General Manager stated that there is a need for a sustainable, constant and growing source of funding.

Mr. Estrada then went over ten years of history of financials, explaining issues and decisions made regarding revenue allocations. Ms. Fisher referred to the fare increase and how there hasn't been enough time to assess it properly, but said that staff will come back to the Board with an analysis in May. The General Manager went over cost savings as a result of the consolidation of facilities. Ms. Fisher also reported that by summer MTD would have 26 new buses (30' and 40') and by fall, 5 new buses for the Santa Ynez Valley service. The General Manager went over our facilities and noting that it would be some time before we would realize any funds from the Overpass and Calle Real properties. The General Manager strongly recommended that proceeds from the properties should be set aside for future capital purchase needs.

Ms. Fisher introduced staff members: Manager of Planning Steve Maas; Quality Assurance Manager Paul Tumbleson; Operations Manager Gary Johns; Manager of Marketing Lynnette Coverly; Manager of Community Relations David Damiano; Acting Materials Manager Steve Hahn; Acting Manager of Maintenance Mike Cardona; and Controller Jerry Estrada, all who reviewed functions and initiatives of their departments for this year.

Director Fahnestock noted that it was difficult to prioritize all the initiatives and goals that need to be done with our financial situation. Director Davis stated that it is important for our partners to understand our circumstances on funding and that is one of the things the External Affairs Committee is addressing.

The General Manager went over some issues MTD will be working on this year and that will come back to the Board: South Coast Transit Priorities; Service for the upcoming year; Transit Center remodel; Overpass Road and Calle Real properties; and Pass Programs.

Director Davis reported on compliments he has heard from our community partners on the efforts MTD is making to work with them. Ms. Fisher added that the community has also been very supportive even though the message of our financial difficulties may not be what they want to hear.

8. Workshop: Recruitment/Potential Salary Range for General Manager; Salary Range/Implementation for interim General Manager.

Director Davis moved to continue this item to the next Board Meeting. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

Director Davis moved to adjourn. Director Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.